

House File 2317 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2317
BY SCHULTZ

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the accreditation of nonpublic schools.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, Code Supplement 2009, is amended
2 by adding the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 16. *a.* Notwithstanding subsections
4 1 through 12, there is established an alternative to the
5 accreditation of nonpublic schools by the state board. The
6 state board shall maintain a list of approved alternative
7 accrediting agencies comprised of at least six regional or
8 national nonprofit, nongovernmental agencies recognized in the
9 education community as reliable authorities concerning the
10 quality of education offered by a school and shall publish the
11 list of alternative accrediting agencies on the department's
12 internet site.

13 *b.* A nonprofit school that participates in the accreditation
14 process offered by an alternative accrediting agency on
15 the approved list published pursuant to paragraph "a" shall
16 be deemed to meet the education standards of this section.
17 However, such a school shall comply with statutory health and
18 safety requirements for students and school personnel, and
19 school facilities.

20 *c.* If the state board takes preliminary action to remove
21 an agency from the approved list published on the department's
22 internet site pursuant to paragraph "a", the department
23 shall, at least one year prior to removing the agency from
24 the approved list, notify the nonpublic schools participating
25 in the accreditation process offered by the agency of the
26 state board's intent to remove the accrediting agency from its
27 approved list of alternative accrediting agencies. The notice
28 shall also contain the proposed date of removal. The nonpublic
29 school shall attain accreditation under this subsection or
30 subsections 1 through 12 not later than one year following the
31 date on which the state board removes the agency from its list
32 of alternative accrediting agencies.

33

EXPLANATION

34 This bill establishes an alternative to the accreditation of
35 nonpublic schools by the state board of education by requiring

1 the state board to maintain a list of approved alternative
2 accrediting agencies comprised of at least six regional or
3 national nonprofit, nongovernmental agencies recognized in the
4 education community as reliable authorities concerning the
5 quality of education offered by a school and to publish the
6 list of alternative accrediting agencies on the department's
7 internet site. A nonprofit school that participates in the
8 accreditation process offered by an alternative accrediting
9 agency on the list published by the state board shall be
10 deemed to meet the education standards of Code section 256.11.
11 However, such a school shall comply with statutory health and
12 safety requirements for students and school personnel, and
13 school facilities.

14 If the state board takes preliminary action to remove an
15 agency from its list of approved accrediting agencies, the
16 department shall notify the nonpublic schools accredited
17 through the alternative process of the state board's intent
18 to remove the accrediting agency from its approved list at
19 least one year prior to removing the agency from the approved
20 list, and the nonpublic school shall attain accreditation not
21 later than one year following the date on which the state
22 board removes the agency from its approved list of alternative
23 accrediting agencies.